

Serial No.: 09/748,994
Attorney Docket No.: F-240

Patent

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-25 were pending in the Application. Applicant has amended claim 23 and canceled claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant submits that no new matter is added. The Amendments are submitted solely to place the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for appeal. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 7, 10-23 and 25 will remain pending in the application.

2. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 B1 to Adler, et al. ("Adler '115") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,214,702 to Fischer ("Fischer '702").

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

However, solely in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer to recite the elements of claim 24 that was indicated as allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

3. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication in section 4 of the Office Action that claims 1, 5, 7 and 10-22 are allowed and that claims 24-25 contain subject matter that is allowable over the art of record. Applicant has canceled claim 24 and amended claim 23 to include the limitations of previous claim 24.

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4. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

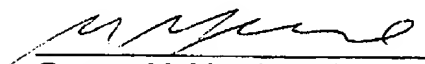
If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

6. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-240.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-240.

Respectfully submitted,



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